THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Firm estimates of the credit requirements of readymade garment sector arc not available; though the Report of Expert Committee on Textile Policy, published in the month of August, 1999, has broadly worked out the working capital requirement of the clothing industry (excluding margin money contribution) to Rs. 12,000 crore assuming a conservative 20% of the turnover of Rs. 60,000 crore in the year 1996.

(b) Various financial institutions in private and public sector such as banks, State Financial Corporations arc extending credit to the viable readymade garment units. Most of the readymade garment manufacturing units can also avail themselves of the special credit facilities generally available to the small scale units such as priority sector lending to SSI, enhanced limit of composite loans etc. Besides, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is in operation since 1.4.1999 for modernisation and technological upgradation of the textile and jute industries, which provides the funds at internationally comparable rates of interests. There is no cap on the loans to be availed under the scheme.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to set up a separate financial institution to exclusively cater to the credit requirements of the textile sector.

Upgradation and modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing factories

3323. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended any package for the upgradation and modernization of cotton ginning and pressing factories in Andhra Pradesh for the production of better quality cotton for the purpose of exports;

(b) if so the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government of India have launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) from February, 2000, which aims at improving the quality and productivity of cotton in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. The modernization of cotton Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories which is covered under the MM-IV, provides a capital incentive of 25% of cost of modernization with a ceiling of Rs. 20

lakh per unit. There is a target of 50 G&P factories per year. Wide publicity is given for obtaining proposals from the industry. So far, 127 proposals for modernization of G&P factories have been sanctioned. One proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh.

Indo-Nepal working group for identifying areas of co-operation in tourism

3324. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to set up a Working Group to identify areas of co-operation in tourism which may include combined tourism circuits, co-operation in infrastructure developments and joint marketing of tourism products;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have also signed a tourism agreement which would provide a task force for implementation and review progress once in six months; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposals sent by Government of Rajasthan for development of tourism

3325. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals sent by Government of Rajasthan for development of tourism and total amount sought for this purpose from the Central Government; and

(b) the total amount to be provided by Government to implement these proposals and by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Twenty tourism projects of Rajasthan with Central financial component of Rs. 355.40 lakhs have been prioritised during 2001-2002. The project proposals have not been received from the Rajasthan Government so far.